

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 EB-08 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 /042 W
-----014186 270441Z /73
R 251815Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 0469

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: BDIS, EWWT, DR
SUB: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY RE SEIZED VESSEL, GASPESIEN

REF: TELEX DTD JAN 20, 1978 FROM CONGRESSMAN
KIKI DE LA GARZA

1. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED TELEX JANUARY 20 FROM MR. E. KIKI DE LA
GARZA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: REFERENCE PANAMANIAN REGISTERED VESSEL
GASPESIEN SEIZED APPROXIMATELY WEEK AGO AT
SANTO DOMINGO PORTO RIO HONDO BY DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. VESSEL
OWNED BY TOWER ISLE INVESTMENTS OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. WILL
APPRECIATE YOUR INVESTIGATION AND ADVICE AND COUNSEL. REGARDS.
END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS REPLY WHICH HAS BEEN TELEXED DIRECTLY TO
CONGRESSMAN DE LA GARZA:

QUOTE: RE YOUR TELEX DATED JANUARY 20, 1978 WITH REGARD TO
INQUIRY RE SEIZURE OF VESSEL GASPESIEN, FOLLOWING IS SITUATION
REPORT AS PIECED TOGETHER THROUGH EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH
PARTIES INVOLVED. VESSEL WAS HIRED BY SOUTHERN REGISTER AND
TRANSFER (A U.S. FIRM), THE SELLER, TO TRANSPORT
24,000 CASES OF U.S. GARLIC VALUED AT
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DOLLARS 487,200 TO DOMINICAN PRICE STABILIZATION INSTITUTE
(INSPRE), THE BUYER IN SANTO DOMINGO. VESSEL HAD TO RETURN TO
U.S. PORT TWICE BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL PROBLEMS AND WEATHER
CONDITIONS. VESSEL ARRIVED AT PORT OF HAINA, SANTO DOMINGO
JANUARY 10 WITH CLAIM OF GENERAL AVERAGE RESULT OF STORM.
BUYER DISPUTES CLAIM OF AVERAGE, SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR
2,100 CASES OF GARLIC ALLEGEDLY WET AND RUINED (VALUE-

DOLLARS 40,000). CARGO WAS ALSO FOUND TO BE INFESTED UPON ARRIVAL. BUYER PLACED ATTACHMENT ON VESSEL JANUARY 12 BECAUSE OF AVERAGE DISPUTE AND INFESTATION PROBLEM. BUYER HAD PAID FOR GARLIC ON C AND F BASIS WITH IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF VESSEL UNDERWRITER AND BUYER ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED VESSEL REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM MCGEE OF CONSOLIDATED ANDY CORP (U.S. FIRM BASED IN BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS) TO SEEK LOCAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND HAS PROVIDED LISTING OF LOCAL ATTORNEYS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CASE WITH INTEREST AND WILL REPORT AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT. END QUOTE.
HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: BDIS, EWWT, DR, US
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